

## **Terms of Reference for the Equine Welfare and Ethics Advisory Group (EWEAG) November 2024**

A key strategic imperative of the BEF strategy (2020 – 2024) is that as a Federation we will operate in a safe environment which optimises the care and safeguards the wellbeing of equines protecting them from harm. The BEF Board has therefore commissioned the implementation of a welfare and ethics advisory group to provide evidence-based best practice and expert advice to ensure that welfare standards are the highest priority and that we continue to support the management of all aspects of our horses' lives.

### **Purpose**

To identify and make recommendations on critical issues (real or perceived) relating to equine care and wellbeing within equestrian sport represented by the BEF Member Bodies and to develop guidance to promote an ethical human/horse relationship in order to ensure the best wellbeing outcome for the horse.

### **Authority and Initial Term**

The Equine Welfare and Ethics Advisory Group is established by the BEF Board as an independently chaired group and shall have an initial term to the end of 2023 to look at the social licence / welfare / equine safeguarding issues facing equestrian sport with the remit to explore the best way of supporting BEF Member Bodies in the future. This should not be seen as a body set up to defend our sport, but a body established to improve standards further within our sport, supporting our strategic objective of ensuring that equestrianism operates in a safe environment which optimises the care and safeguards the wellbeing of equines protecting them from harm.

At the end of the initial term of to the end of 2023, the Advisory Group will make recommendations to the BEF Board as to the future composition and remit of the Group which best meets the Federation's strategic objectives with regard to equine welfare.

### **Areas of responsibility**

- Identifying key threats and challenges, both real and perceived
- Identify and collate current issues. Consider scientific evidence to support best practice
- Provide a Federation-wide strategic overview of equine care, wellbeing and welfare in sport
- To identify areas in which further research is needed and identify research priorities
- Advise and make recommendations on areas where rule changes should be considered
- Advise the BEF on response to welfare issues
- Consider mechanisms for systems of equine safeguarding reporting
- Engage and collaborate with Member Bodies in the promotion of equine and wellbeing messaging, content and best practice, and strategic reputational work.

## **Scope**

This extends to all matters of equine care and wellbeing of relevance to the BEF Member Bodies. The funding of projects is not within this group's remit.

## **Composition of Advisory Group**

- Independent Chair: Professor Madeline Campbell BVetMed (Hons) MA (Oxon) MA (Keele) PhD DipECAR DipECAWBM (AWSEL) MRCVS
- Jim Eyre, BEF CEO
- Roly Owers MRCVS, BEF Board Director and CEO World Horse Welfare
- John McEwen MBE, BVMS MRCVS, BEF Director of Equine Sports Science and Medicine
- Richard Waygood MBE, BEF Technical Director
- Iain Graham, British Showjumping CEO
- Sarah Phillips, BHS COO
- Lynne Bailey, BEF Head of Integrity and HR
- Winnie Murphy, BEF Head of Communications
  
- PA to BEF CEO and Chair, shall act as the secretary to the Advisory Group

## **Meeting Schedule**

To meet four times a year:

- Two virtual meetings
- Two in person meetings.

## **Key considerations**

- Ensure continued communication and engagement with the Member Bodies and their members
- Liaison with the devolved nations
- Liaison with the FEI through the Veterinary Committee Chair and the FEI Ethics and Wellbeing Commission
- Liaison with the EEF and the European National Federations
- Liaison with British Horse Council
- Liaison with British Horse Racing Authority (BHA), particularly the Horse Welfare Board.

## **Confidentiality**

All members of the Advisory Group are required to respect the confidentiality of the information they are exposed to as a result of their membership of the Group. All Advisory Group members, when dealing with any difficult and confidential issues, are required to act with discretion and care in the performance of their role and should only speak to the media with the express permission of the Chair and BEF CEO.

In situations concerning potential whistleblowing matters, Advisory Group members are encouraged to adhere to the BEF's whistleblowing policy.